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WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR

STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT

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HRR  
SUBJECT: Access to State Department Intelligence Cables

TO : Director, Central Intelligence Group  
New War Department Building  
Washington, D.C.

1. It is requested that arrangements be made by Central Intelligence Group to secure for this unit access to intelligence cables received from State Department representatives abroad. It is proposed that an officer from this headquarters be allowed to examine incoming cables daily and to extract or paraphrase those cables, or portions of cables, likely to be of interest to this agency, and to make a copy of such extract or paraphrase for the Director's office.

2. Such a service was regularly in effect during the regime of OSS, and was continued for SSU until February of this year. Primary responsibility for the extraction of material from cables rested with the R & A Branch which made a copy available to the SI Branch. Security arrangements called for the retention of single copies of cables under strict control as laid down by the Chief, SI. Similar controls will be established by the Director in the event that the service be reinstituted.

3. These intelligence reports were, and would be again, of immense value to this unit. At the same time, they would enable the unit to provide more effective service for the State Department. Specifically, the Department cables would provide authoritative material on current situations abroad which would be extremely useful in (a) appraising our own incoming reports; (b) enabling SSU to avoid duplication and overlapping in coverage; (c) pointing up specific areas and topics on which SSU might undertake to provide coverage; and (d) assisting in the planning of operations.

4. In connection with this request, attention is invited to the exchange of correspondence between this unit and the Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, copies of which are inclosed herewith.

Incl - 2

W. W. QUINN  
Colonel, Inf.  
Director

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